

## Conversation Contents

### BENM archaeological content

#### Attachments:

/382. BENM archaeological content/1.1 BearsEarsMapPacket.pdf

**"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John\_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>**

**From:** "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John\_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>  
**Sent:** Sun Mar 05 2017 19:39:15 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** Downey Magallanes <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** BENM archaeological content  
**Attachments:** BearsEarsMapPacket.pdf

Downey,

Attached you will find information from the Utah State Historical Preservation Office on the archaeological content of the Bears Ears National Monument.

Southeastern Utah is rich in historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest. Many of these antiquities are situated upon lands that are owned or controlled by the federal government and merit protection. It is important to Senator Hatch, the Utah congressional delegation, the Utah State Legislature, and the Governor, that the protection of these objects occur with the smallest areas compatible with proper care and management.

John Tanner  
Legislative Director  
Office of Senator Orrin Hatch



GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*



Jill Love  
*Executive Director*



Brad Westwood  
*Director*

February 8, 2017

## **Information Sheet: Bears Ears National Monument, UT-SHPO and the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106**

This package of briefing materials and maps are provided as a factual summary of the archaeological content of the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM). Anticipating a data request in 2016, the UT-SHPO compiled this information during May and June of 2016. As the statewide repository for all archaeological information, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (UT-SHPO) has the most complete dataset in the state.

**UT-SHPO plays no role in the designation of National Monuments, nor does the UT-SHPO take any position on undertakings (land exchanges, road closures, etc.) from an advocacy position.**

Designation of a National Monument by the President of the United States does not specifically warrant a review by the UT-SHPO, as it is largely a land designation of existing federal lands. In this situation the role of UT-SHPO is to **provide advice and guidance**, if requested, to any party in regards to the cultural compliance process and aggregate archaeological and historic building data.

UT-SHPO has records of over **9,000 known archaeological sites and historic buildings** within Bear's Ears National Monument (BENM), many of which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are over 35,000 known archaeological sites within San Juan County as a whole.

This statement and the numbers above **do not directly address or document Native American cultural values**, sites, or sacred landscapes, unless they have a spatially limited physical character that meets the definition of an archaeological site. Sacred and spiritually-related places typically do not fall under the umbrella of review for the UT-SHPO. The number of these types of places and landscapes are undetermined at present.

If there are specific undertakings, then the UT-SHPO would be **consulted by the responsible federal agency on those specific actions** and their effects on cultural resources. The government agency is responsible for fulfilling the applicable cultural resource laws.

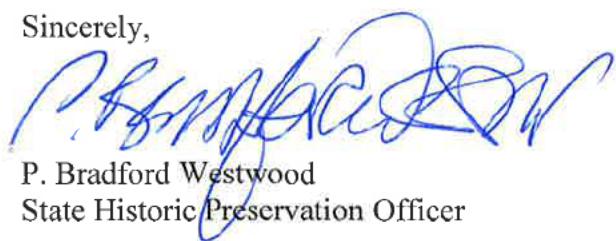
Larger public lands issues and debates are **outside the purview of the UT-SHPO**, which is bound by federal and state statute to focus primarily on advising and assisting agencies with their cultural compliance requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Utah Code Annotated 9-8-404.

This information **will be available upon request** as it is public record, with the exception of archaeological site locations, which is protected under federal and state statute.

UT-SHPO provides guidance, advice, and reviews for agencies while also providing the most complete cultural resource data in the state.

Please contact me at 801-245-7248 or by email at [bradwestwood@utah.gov](mailto:bradwestwood@utah.gov) if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Bradford Westwood".

P. Bradford Westwood  
State Historic Preservation Officer

An Archaeological Perspective on the  
Bears Ears National Monument

Antiquities Section

February 8, 2017



A Division of the Department of Heritage and Arts

The Utah Division of State History's Antiquities Section is the clearinghouse for all archaeological site information in the State of Utah, with the exception of the Navajo Nation and White Mesa Ute. It is hoped that the attached maps and the accompanying captions (below), will provide a basic non-partisan description of archaeological resources in the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM). As a reference, "archaeological sites" are defined as concentrations of cultural material (artifacts) that are over 50 years old, and "inventories" is defined as acreage walked by professional archaeologists. Each of the captions below corresponds directly to the accompanying maps that can be provided in hard copy upon request.

**Archaeological Inventory in BENM:** Shows areas inventoried for archaeological resources since the 1930s overlain on the proposed BENM. From our data it appears that 8% of Bears Ears has been inventoried previously.

**Known Archaeological Sites in BENM:** Number and generalized location of archaeological sites within San Juan County and the proposed BENM. There are 8,480 known archaeological sites that fall within the Bears Ears boundary, versus 25,734 county-wide. The overwhelming majority of all sites in the county and BENM are prehistoric (>70%), pre-dating the 1800s.

**Archaeological Site Density in BENM:** Map shows the archaeological site density in the proposed BENM, with bright reds and oranges showing the densest site accumulations, measured on a 1km grid scale. Dark grey areas are surveyed without finding archaeological sites, and light grey areas have not been surveyed at all.

**Comparison of PLI, Original BENM Proposal, and Final BENM:** Map shows the three proposals for Bears Ears in San Juan County overlain with known archaeological sites. At the bottom are the number of archaeological sites encompassed within each proposal or final BENM versus the overall number of archaeological sites.

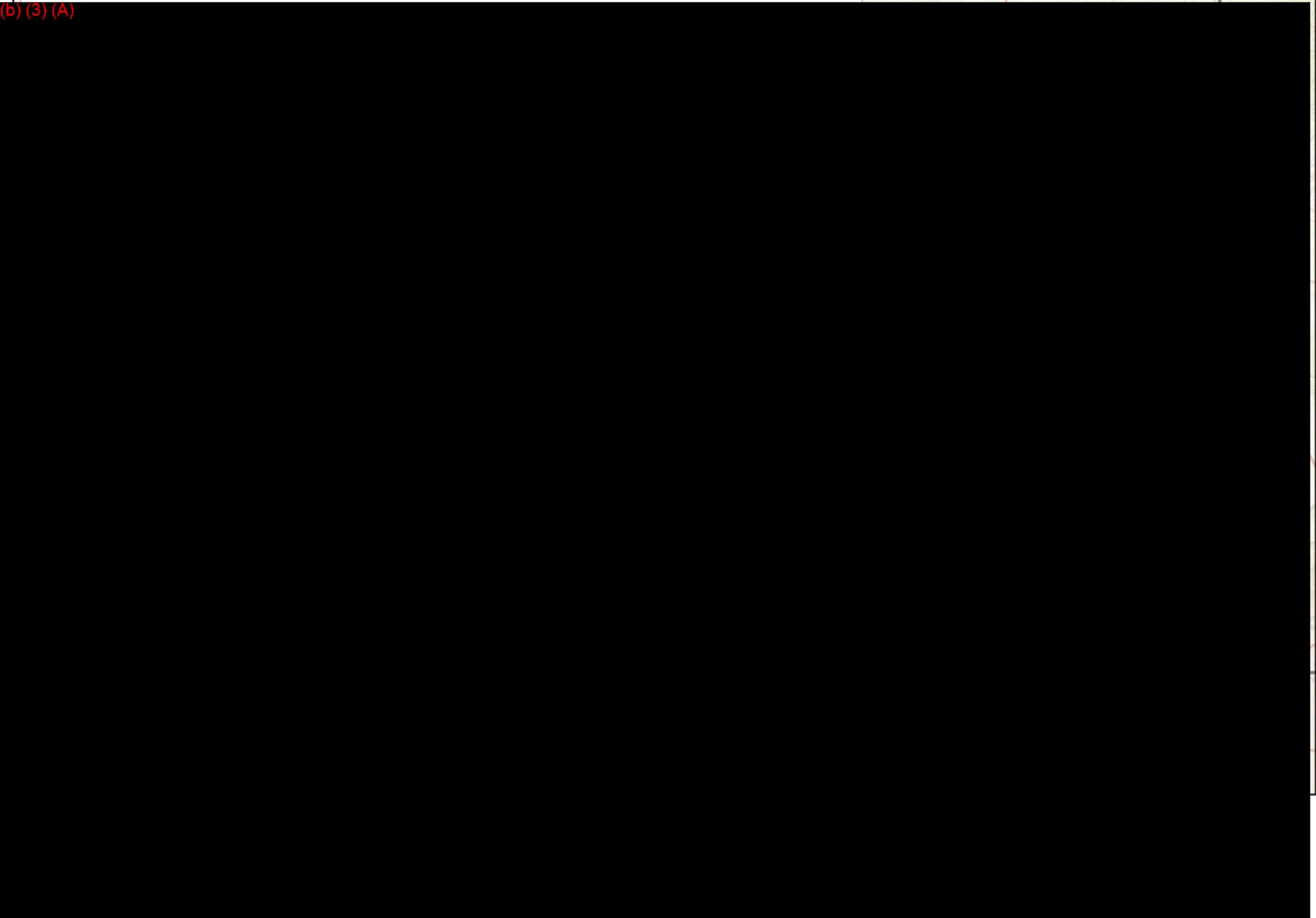
For more information:

- Chris Merritt, Antiquities Section Coordinator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer ([cmerritt@utah.gov](mailto:cmerritt@utah.gov))
- Arie Leeflang, Archaeological Records Manager ([aleeflang@utah.gov](mailto:aleeflang@utah.gov))
- Christina Epperson, GIS Analyst ([christinaepperson@utah.gov](mailto:christinaepperson@utah.gov))

# Archaeological Surveys



(b) (3) (A)



## Archaeological Site Density in Surveyed Areas



(b) (3) (A)

# Archaeological Sites

(b) (3) (A)



# Comparison of Archaeological Sites